

MINUTES

OF THE

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

AFRICAN

Baptist Association,

OF

NOVA SCOTIA,

HELD AT WEYMOUTH,

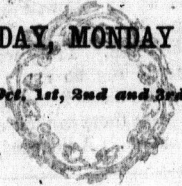
SATURDAY, SUNDAY, MONDAY & TUESDAY,

Sept. 30th, Oct. 1st, 2nd and 3rd, 1871.

HALIFAX, N. S.

1871.

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## Minutes.

WEYMOUTH, Saturday, September 30th, 1871.

Minutes of the proceedings of the Fourth Annual Session of the AFRICAN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION of Nova Scotia, held at Weymouth.

Met at 3 o'clock, P.M. After singing, prayer was offered by the Rev. H. Frances, then Rev. H. Frances read Revelation 1 chap. and spoke from the same. Then a great many of the brethren spoke, and some of the sisters telling their hope in Jesus Christ. Adjourned.

Sunday, October 1st.

Met at 10½ o'clock, A. M. Preaching by Bro. Edward Dixon from Romans i. 11 verse; followed by Randolph Langford and Rev. H. Frances.

At 2 o'clock met at the water side. Prayer was offered by Rev. G. R. Neale. Baptism was administered by the Rev. H. Frances to one candidate.

Met at 3 o'clock. Rev. H. Frances read the 22nd chapter of Luke. The right hand of fellowship was given by Rev. B. Smithers. The Lord's Supper was administered by Rev. G. R. Neale and Rev. H. Frances.

Met at 7 o'clock, P. M. Preaching by the Rev. H. Frances from Jonah iii. 2, followed by Rev. G. R. Neale, C. Roan, E. Dixon, Rev. Benson Smithers, and a great many more of the brethren. Truly we felt the Lord in our midst; we felt glad to see so many of our white friends come in with us, and the behaviour and attention paid. We hope the Lord will bless them in their churches, and in their store, and in their basket. Adjourned.

Monday, October 2nd.

Met at 9 o'clock, A. M. The Rev. George R. Neale read Isaiah lxi. Prayer by C. Roan. The Council then proceeded to business.

*It was voted,* That Rev. Benson Smithers be Moderator.

*Voted,* That Rev. George R. Neale be Chairman.

The Minutes of last year were then read and approved.

*Voted,* That Brother P. J. Hawkins be Clerk.

*Voted,* That Rev. G. R. Neale be Assistant Clerk.

*Voted,* That Deacon James Langford, of the Weymouth Church, be Secretary and Treasurer.

*Voted,* That Rev. H. Frances be Assistant Moderator.

*Voted,* That the Rev. B. Smithers and the Rev. G. R. Neale superintend the printing of the Minutes.

*Voted,* That they each receive five shillings for it.

*Voted,* That the Superintendents have power to correct any mistakes.

*It was voted,* That the Rev. Benson Smithers be Bishop of our Association.

*Voted,* That the Rev. Benson Smithers visit the churches once a-year. Adjourned.

Met at 11 o'clock. The Rev. George R. Neale preach the Introductory Sermon from Isaiah lix. 19 verse, followed by C. Roan and Rev. H. Frances and more of the brethren. Then we travelled to the water-side again, and the Rev. H. Frances baptized one old candidate 81 years of age, who was blind in bodily sight. Truly it was delightful to see him praising the Lord. The right hand of fellowship was given by the Rev. B. Smithers.

Met at 2 o'clock, P. M. Prayer by Bro. A. Dickson.

*It was voted,* That the Rev. G. R. Neale write the Circular Letter, and that his name be printed at the bottom.

*Voted,* That every Church have power to choose their own officers.

*Voted,* That Brother James Langford be Clerk for the Weymouth Church. Adjourned.

Met at 3 o'clock, P. M. Preaching by Rev. H. Frances from Acts ix. 18, followed by Brother Williams, Rev. B. Smithers, Rev. G. R. Neale. Then the Lord's Supper was given by Rev. H. Francis.

Met at 7 o'clock, P. M. Preaching by Rev. H. Frances, from Jonah iii. 2, followed by C. Roan, E. Dixon, Rev. G. R. Neale, Rev. B. Smithers, and more of the brethren. Singing kept on until 12 o'clock. Truly it was a good time.

Tuesday, October 3rd.

Met at 9 o'clock, A. M. Rev. G. R. Neale read Isaiah iv. Prayer by the Rev. H. Frances.

*It was voted,* That all the officers stand as they did last year.

*Voted,* That a committee be chosen to examine the letters.

*Voted,* That J. Langford, E. Dickson, J. P. Hawkins be the committee.

*Voted,* That the letters be read.

*Voted,* That Rev. G. R. Neale and J. P. Hawkins read them.

*Voted,* That the Association be held with the South Preston Church next year, on the last Saturday in September 1872.

*Voted,* That Rev. Benson Smithers preach the Introductory Sermon, and that Rev. G. R. Neale be his alternate.

A vote of thanks was given to the Weymouth members and friends for their hospitality to the Ministers and Delegates from the various churches.

*Resolved,* That a vote of thanks be tendered to our white friends, that met with us, for their good behaviour and kind attention. Adjourned.

Met at 7 o'clock. Preaching by Rev. G. R. Neale, from Acts xx. 32, followed by C. Roan, E. Dixon, Rev. Benson Smithers. Then Ministers, Deacons and Delegates formed in a ring, hand in hand. The Doxology was sung. Prayer by the Rev. H. Frances. The benediction pronounced by the Rev. Benson Smithers. Then speaking and singing was kept up until 12 o'clock. Then the brethren separated to meet with the South Preston Church, on the last Saturday in September, 1872.

*Wednesday, Oct. 4th.*—We came on to Digby Joggins. Many of the of the brothers and sisters came with us. At 7 o'clock, P. M., Rev. B. Smithers preached from Isaiah lxiii. 1, followed by E. Dixon, C. Roan, Rev. H. Frances, Rev. G. R. Neale, and a great many more of the brethren.

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*Thursday, October 5th.*—We came to Clements Settlement. At 7 o'clock, P. M., preaching by Rev. G. R. Neale, from Matthew v. 4; followed by E. Dixon, Rev. B. Smithers, C. Roan. Truly we were made to rejoice in the Lord.

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*Friday, October 6th.*—We went over to Guinea Settlement, at 7 o'clock. Preaching by the Rev. B. Smithers from Acts xxvi. 11, 12 verses, followed by E. Dixon, C. Roan, Rev. G. R. Neale, and more of the brethren. Truly we found it the gate of Heaven to our souls.

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*Sunday, October 8th.*—We went to Bear River Church. At half-past 10 o'clock, A. M., preaching by the Rev. B. Smithers from Daniel iii. 17, followed by E. Dixon, C. Roan, and others.

Met at 8 o'clock, P. M. Preaching by Rev. G. R. Neale from Revelation iii. 5, followed by Rev. B. Smithers, E. Dixon, C. Roan, and others.

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*Monday, October 9th.*—Came to Annapolis Ferry, at 7 o'clock, P. M. Preaching by Rev. G. R. Neale, from John x. 11, followed by E. Dixon, C. Roan, Rev. B. Smithers, and more of the brethren.

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Then the brethren separated Tuesday morning; Brethren Neale and Roan came to Halifax; A. Dixon, E. Dixon came to Kentville; Rev. B. Smithers stopped at the Ferry and preached on Tuesday night, and by Friday we were all home safe. Thanks be to God.



## Ministers, Licentiates, Deacons, and Counsellors.

**1ST PRESTON CHURCH, NORTH.**—Rev. George R. Neale, Pastor; James Slaughter, David Brown, William Deare, Thomas Crawley, Deacons; John Collins, Peter Williams, Samuel Blue, Counsellors.

**2ND PRESTON CHURCH, SOUTH.**—Rev. Benson Smithers, Pastor; C. Glasgow, Peter Cranby, Sampson Williams, Joseph Smith, Paul Crdey, Deacons; Joseph Glasgow, George Lambert, Henry Curry, Counsellors; Geo. Thomas, Secretary and Treasurer.

**3RD PRESTON CHURCH, NORTH.**—Rev. George R. Neale, Pastor; James Downey, Licentiate; James Smith, Counsellor.

**DARTMOUTH.**—Rev. Benson Smithers, Pastor; Charles Roan, Licentiate; Thomas Tynes, Adan Green, Deacons; John Tynes, Charles Smith, Counsellors.

**CAMPBELL ROAD CHURCH.**—Rev. Benson Smithers, Pastor; Edward Dixop, Licentiate; Alen Dixon, Deacon.

**GRANVILLE MOUNTAIN CHURCH.**—Rev. Benson Smithers, Pastor; Edward Dixon, Isaac Middleton, Isaac Cuff, Deacons; Elias Miran, Counsellor.

**BEAR RIVER CHURCH.**—Rev. Benson Smithers, Pastor; Wentworth Thos. Licentiate; Isaac Johnson, J. P. Hawkins, Frederick Ford, Deacons; George Ringwood, Isaac Hawkins, Counsellors.

**DIGBY JOGGINGS CHURCH.**—Rev. Benson Smithers, Pastor; Joseph Francis, Counsellor.

**WEYMOUTH CHURCH.**—Rev. Benson Smithers, Pastor; Rev. Henry Frances, James Smith, James Langford, Deacons; Randolph Langford, Licentiate.

**YARMOUTH CHURCH.**—Rev. Benson Smithers, Rev. H. Frances, Pastors; George Dise, Licentiate; Elias Chandler, James Crawford, Anthony Berry, Counsellors.

## STATISTICS.

### State of the Churches—Increase and Decrease.

CHURCHES.	Bapt'd.	Recv'd.	Exclu'd.	Rem'd.	Died.	Total
Preston 1st., East.	0	0	4	0	0	77
Preston 2nd., South.	1	3	1	0	0	69
Preston 3rd., North.	0	3	2	0	0	17
Dartmouth.	1	6	3	0	0	28
Campbell road.	0	0	0	0	0	12
Granville Mountain.	9	3	0	0	0	40
Bear River.	0	1	2	0	2	23
Digby Jogging.	0	0	0	0	0	6
Weymouth.	2	0	0	0	0	24
Yarmouth.	12	3	0	0	0	88
<b>Total.</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>387</b>

Money Received from the Churches by Letter.....\$28 64

Collections.....14 72

Total amount.....\$43 36

## Circular Letter.

THE CIRCULAR LETTER OF THE AFRICAN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, CONVENED AT WEYMOUTH, SEPTEMBER 30TH, 1871.

*Dearly Beloved Brethren,—*

We feel thankful to Almighty God for his goodness and mercy. He has spared our lives through another year. Glory be to his Name. Since we last met many have been taken away by death; but we are still spared to hail you again upon the shores of time.

I asked you last year to pray to the Lord that he might make peace among the nations of the earth. That prayer has been answered, war and bloodshed have ceased; thanks be to the Lord. We feel glad he has also made peace in the hearts of a great many of his people.

And now my brethren I recommend you to have a little more faith in Jesus Christ—not wavering nor shaky faith but strong standing faith. Our blessed Lord Jesus Christ recommended growing faith like a grain of mustard seed. The Apostle Paul said “Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” Jude recommends us to earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the Saints, but shakey moving faith will not do at all. My brethren the Israelites had faith when they started out of Egypt, but their faith failed at the Red Sea. After they got over, and seeing their enemies drowned and gone, they got faith to sing and to say: Who is like our God? but afterwards they murmured and their faith failed. When Moses was up in the mount forty days they said to Aaron, Make us Gods. For which cause the Lord was wroth

against them. My brethren I recommend to you faith like the faith of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. Their faith was so strong that God delivered them out of the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us, for we were made to rejoice that faith went with us to our Association, and we were glad to see our Bishop Smithers walled in by his brethren; and to see the Lion turned into a lamb. We hope he will have a little more faith in Jesus, I shall say

My God shall break their bows,  
 And burn their persecuting dart;  
 Shall their own swords against them turn,  
 And pain surprise their hearts.

And now my brethren try to have strong faith. For faith assures us though we die that heavenly building stands. The grace of the Lord be with you all. Amen.

**REV. GEORGE RICHARD NEALE.**

